

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No.: Divisional of 09/537695 Art Unit: 3643

Filed: July 25, 2001 Examiner: Little, W.

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MAKING AN INCISION IN THE  
SKIN OF A SLAUGHTERED ANIMAL, AND FOR  
PERFORMING A SUBCUTANEOUS OPERATION

Box Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No. V0028/260870  
Date: July 25, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is respectfully submitted in connection with the  
above-referenced application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete the two lines immediately following the words "CROSS-  
REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and insert the following paragraph in  
place thereof:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/537,695 filed on March 28,  
2000, now allowed, which is a continuation of PCT/NL98/00561 filed on September 29,  
1998, which claims priority to PCT/NL97/00540 filed on September 29, 1997.--

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

58. (Amended) A method for processing a slaughtered bird comprising  
breaking at least one tissue connection between the belly skin and the viscera of the bird  
prior to evisceration of the carcass of the bird.